



## U.N. asks nations to better prepare, cool the vulnerable as 'extreme heat epidemic' breaks records

By SETH BORENSTEIN and  
SIBI ARASU

Associated Press

After three of Earth's hottest days ever measured, the United Nations called for a flurry of efforts to try to reduce the human toll from soaring and searing temperatures, calling it "an extreme heat epidemic." "If there is one thing that unites our divided world, it's that we're all increasingly feeling the heat," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday at a news conference where he highlighted that Monday was the hottest day on record, surpassing the mark set just a day earlier. "Earth is becoming hotter and more dangerous for everyone, everywhere."



Bathers cool off in the water while others sunbathe on a Barcelona beach, Spain, Wednesday, July 24, 2024. Several regions of Spain are under alert for high temperatures.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

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## U.N. asks nations to better prepare, cool the vulnerable as 'extreme heat epidemic' breaks records

Continued from Front

Nearly half a million people a year die worldwide from heat related deaths, far more than other weather extremes such as hurricanes, and this is likely an underestimate, a new report by 10 U.N. agencies said.

"Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic -- wilting under increasingly deadly heat waves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world," Guterres said. "That's 122 degrees Fahrenheit and halfway to boiling."

The dire warnings came after a barely noticeable respite in back-to-back record global heat.

The European climate service Copernicus calculated that Tuesday's global average temperature was 0.01 Celsius (0.01 Fahrenheit) lower than Monday's all-time high of 17.16 degrees Celsius (62.8 degrees Fahrenheit), which was .06 degrees Celsius hotter (0.1 degrees Fahrenheit) than Sunday.

All three days were hotter than Earth's previous hottest day in 2023.

"We are not prepared," the U.N. report said.

Guterres urged countries of the world to adopt several proposals aimed at reducing heat deaths, starting with help to cool and care for the most vulnerable people — the poor, elderly, young and sick.

The U.N. also called for better heat wave warnings, expanding "passive cooling," improved urban design, stronger protections for outside workers, as well as greater efforts to tackle human-caused climate change that's worsening



**Children cool themselves off in a public fountain in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 25, 2024. A heat wave warning was issued in Seoul as temperatures soared 33 degrees Celsius (91.4 degrees Fahrenheit).**

weather extremes.

But officials said most work will have to be done by countries, with the U.N. offering aid and coordination, especially when it comes to beefing up weather warning systems. If countries adopt the United Nations heat-fighting recommendations, "these measures could protect 3.5 billion people by 2050, while slashing emissions and saving consumers \$1 trillion a year," Guterres said, citing a U.N. Environment Programme estimate. Better heat-health warning systems in 57 countries could save 98,314 lives per year, the report said, based on World Health Organization and World Meteorological Organization estimates.

"Crippling heat is everywhere, but it doesn't affect everyone equally," Guterres said. "Extreme heat amplifies inequality, inflames food insecurity and pushes people further into poverty."

More than 1,300 people died during this year's annual Haj pilgrimage after

walking in scorching heat.

Earlier this year, India's prolonged heatwaves resulted in the deaths of at least 100 people. However, health experts say heat deaths are likely undercounted in India and potentially other countries.

Last year, the United States had its most recorded heat deaths in more than 80 years, according to an Associated Press analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. The death certificates of more than 2,300 people mentioned excessive heat, including 874 deaths in Arizona.

Deadly heat is not new, but scientists say it has been amplified in scale, frequency and duration with climate change.

Extreme heat, wildfires, floods, droughts and ever more fierce hurricanes are symptoms and "we need to fight the disease," Guterres said. "The disease is the madness of incinerating our only home. The disease is the addiction to fossil fuels. The disease is climate inaction."

"Many things are being done, but too little, too late," he said. "The problem is that climate change is running faster than all the measures that are now being put in place to fight it." Before July 3, 2023, the hottest day measured by Copernicus was 16.8 degrees Celsius (62.2 degrees Fahrenheit) on August 13, 2016. In the last 13 months that mark has now been beaten 59 times, according to Copernicus.

Humanity is now "operating in a world that is already much warmer than it was before," Copernicus Director Carlo Buontempo said. "The steady drumbeat of hottest-day-ever records and near-records is concerning for three main reasons. The first is that heat is a killer. The second is that the health impacts of heat waves become much more serious when events persist. The third is that the hottest-day records this year are a surprise," said Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field.

Field said high temperatures usually occur during

El Nino years — a natural warming of the equatorial Pacific that changes weather worldwide — but the last El Nino ended in April.

Field said these high temperatures "underscores the seriousness of the climate crisis."

"Unfortunately people are going to die and those deaths are preventable," said Kristie Ebi, a public health and climate professor at the University of Washington. "Heat is called the silent killer for a reason. People often don't know they're in trouble with heat until it's too late."

"At some point, the accumulated heat internally becomes too much, then your cells and your organs start to warm up," Ebi said.

The "big driver" of the current heat is greenhouse gas emissions, from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, Buontempo said. Those gases help trap heat, changing the energy balance between the heat coming in from the sun and that escaping Earth, meaning the planet retains more heat energy than before, he said.

Other factors include the warming of the Pacific by El Nino; the sun reaching its peak cycle of activity; an undersea volcano explosion; and air with fewer heat-reflecting particles because of marine fuel pollution regulations, experts said.

The last 13 months have all set heat records. The world's oceans broke heat records for 15 months in a row and that water heat, along with an unusually warm Antarctica, are helping push temperatures to record level, Buontempo said. □

Associated Press



# Biden signs bill strengthening oversight of crisis-plagued U.S. Bureau of Prisons after AP reporting

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and  
MICHAEL BALSAMO  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden signed into law on Thursday a bill strengthening oversight of the crisis-plagued federal Bureau of Prisons after reporting by The Associated Press exposed systemic corruption, failures and abuse in the federal prison system. The Federal Prison Oversight Act, which passed the Senate on July 10 and the House in May, establishes an independent ombudsman to field and investigate complaints in the wake of sexual assaults and other criminal misconduct by staff, chronic understaffing, escapes and high-profile deaths. It also requires that the Justice Department's inspector general conduct risk-based inspections of all 122 federal prison facilities, provide recommendations to address deficiencies and assign each facility a risk score. Higher-risk facilities would then receive more frequent inspections. Bureau of Prisons Director Colette Peters lauded the bill as she testified before Congress this week. But, she told the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance that the agency will need tens of millions of dollars in additional funding "to effectively respond



President Joe Biden pauses as he concludes his address to the nation from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 24, 2024, about his decision to drop his Democratic presidential reelection bid.

to the additional oversight and make that meaningful, long-lasting change." Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., introduced the oversight bill in 2022 while leading an investigation of the Bureau of Prisons as chair of the Senate Homeland Security Committee's subcommittee on investigations. Ossoff and the bill's two other sponsors, Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sens. Mike Braun, R-Ind., launched the Senate Bipartisan Prison Policy Working Group in February 2022 amid turmoil at the

Bureau of Prisons, much of it uncovered by AP reporting. Reps. Kelly Armstrong, R-N.D., and Lucy McBath, D-Ga., backed the House version of the bill. "The human rights crisis behind bars in the United States is a stain on America's conscience," Ossoff said in a statement thanking the bill's other sponsors. "The United States Congress will no longer tolerate the ongoing and widespread abuse of those who are in Federal Bureau of Prisons' custody." Under the legislation, an in-

dependent federal prison ombudsman would collect complaints via a secure hotline and online form and then investigate and report to the attorney general and Congress dangerous conditions affecting the health, safety, welfare and rights of inmates and staff. Along with inspecting prison facilities, the legislation requires the Justice Department's inspector general to report any findings and recommendations to Congress and the public. The Bureau of Prisons would then need to respond with

a corrective action plan within 60 days. Last year, Inspector General Michael Horowitz launched an unannounced inspection program of federal prison facilities that identified critical shortcomings, including staff shortages in health and education programs, crumbling infrastructure, and moldy and rotten food being served to inmates. The oversight bill "recognizes the importance of our inspection program," Horowitz said. "We look forward to working with Congress to expand its impact." Peters said the bill "really enhances" what the inspector general has been doing, while also enabling the agency to collect data and spot problems more quickly. "We'll be seeing more unannounced visits from the inspector general," Peters told the House subcommittee. "And then I think the ombudsman position is very powerful as well, for it to have a place where individuals can bring forward complaints and somebody is there to ensure that those complaints are asked and answered." Biden signed a separate Ossoff bill into law in December 2022 requiring the Bureau of Prisons to fix broken surveillance cameras and install new ones. □

Associated Press

## Harris says she's ready to debate Trump and accuses him of 'backpedaling' from Sept. 10 faceoff

By JOSH BOAK and CHRIS  
MEGERIAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Vice President Kamala Harris told reporters on Thursday that she's "ready to debate Donald Trump." She accused him of "backpedaling" away from a previous agreement for a debate hosted by ABC News on Sept. 10. "I think the voters deserve to see the split screen that exists in this race on the debate stage," she said after landing at Joint Base

Andrews following a trip to Indiana and Texas. The Sept. 10 debate was one of two debates that President Joe Biden and Trump had agreed on. The first one was hosted by CNN on June 27, but Biden has since dropped out of the race and endorsed Harris as his successor. Trump has said he would prefer to shift the debate to Fox News, but he would be willing to face off with Harris more than once. Harris did not respond to a question about having Fox

News host a debate. Alex Conant, a Republican consultant, said the debate could be "decisive." "It's the only time voters really tune in," he said. This year's campaign has already shown the potential power of a debate. Biden's disastrous performance on June 27 revived concerns that he was too old for a second term. His support within the Democratic Party crumbled, and he ended his reelection bid on Sunday. □



Vice President Kamala Harris boards Air Force Two as she departs from Ellington Airport in Houston, Thursday, July 25, 2024. Harris is returning to Washington, after delivering remarks at a teachers' union event.

Associated Press



# Days before a Biden rule against anti-LGBTQ+ bias takes effect, judges are narrowing its reach

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)** — New federal court rulings are narrowing the Biden administration's enforcement of a rule for protecting LGBTQ+ students from discrimination and allowing critics to limit it even further school by school.

A federal judge in Missouri blocked enforcement of the rule in six additional states, bringing the total to 21. The decision Wednesday from Senior U.S. District Judge Rodney Sipple, an appointee of President Bill Clinton, applies in Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. It comes just a week before the rule is to take effect.

Sipple's ruling followed one last week by U.S. District Judge John Broomes in Kansas, who blocked enforcement in that state, Alaska, Utah and Wyoming but also in individual schools and colleges across the U.S. with students or parents who are members of three groups



Demonstrators advocating for transgender rights and healthcare stand outside of the Ohio Statehouse, Jan. 24, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

opposing the rule. Broomes, an appointee of President Donald Trump, gave one group, Moms for Liberty, an extra week until Friday to submit its list of affected schools and said it could include ones for members

who joined the group after his initial July 2 order. Republican officials seeking to roll back transgender rights hailed Sipple's ruling as a victory for cisgendered girls and women, having framed the issue as protect-

ing their privacy and safety in bathrooms and locker rooms.

They've also argued the rule is a ruse to allow transgender females to play on girls' and women's sports teams, but Sipple said it would not

apply to athletics.

"Yet again a federal court has stopped the Biden-Harris administration from going around Congress to implement a ridiculous, nonsensical, and illegal election-year move," Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffith said in a statement. "And it comes just in time before the start of the new school year."

Moms for Liberty had told Broomes in a court filing earlier this month that its members have students in tens of thousands of schools across the U.S., many in Democratic-led states supporting the rule. Also, judges in Alabama and Oklahoma have yet to rule in lawsuits filed by those states and Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

The three groups involved in the Kansas lawsuit already have submitted lists of about 1,100 schools and colleges in the U.S. affected by Broomes' order. An AP analysis shows that 69% are outside the 21 states where enforcement already is blocked. □

# Massachusetts governor signs bill cracking down on hard-to-trace 'ghost guns'

By STEVE LeBLANC

Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey signed a sweeping gun bill Thursday that supporters say builds on the state's existing gun laws, including a crackdown on hard to trace "ghost guns," while safeguarding the rights of gun owners.

The law is part of an effort by the state to respond to a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that citizens have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

On ghost guns, the law toughens oversight for those who own privately made, unserialized firearms that are largely untraceable. In 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice reported recovering 25,785 ghost guns in domestic seizures.

The law expands the state's extreme risk protective order law also known as the red flag law by authorizing

health care professionals and others who interact regularly with people in crisis to petition a court to suspend a person's right to possess or carry a gun to protect themselves and others.

The law also prohibits the possession of firearms by non-law-enforcement

people at schools, polling locations and government buildings and imposes strict penalties for the possession of modification devices, such as Glock switches, which supporters of the law say convert an otherwise legal firearm into a fully automatic firearm.

"Massachusetts is proud

of our strong gun laws, but there is always more work to be done to keep our communities safe from violence. This legislation updates our firearms laws in response to the Supreme Court's misguided Bruen decision," said Healey, a Democrat.

"It cracks down on ghost guns and 3D printed weapons, which I have long advocated for, enhances our ability to prevent guns from falling into dangerous hands, and invests in our communities to address the root causes of violence," she said.

The law also requires those applying for a license to carry firearms to demonstrate a basic understanding of safety principles through a standardized exam and live fire training, and provides local licensing authorities with relevant mental health information of pending applicants.

District attorneys would be able to prosecute people who shoot at or near residential homes under the legislation, which would also ensure that dangerous people subject to harassment prevention orders no longer have access to firearms.

Gun rights advocates had criticized the Massachusetts Senate, which approved their version of the bill in February, for failing to hold a separate public hearing given the differences between their bill and the House bill approved last year.

The new law also expands the definition of "assault weapons" to include known assault weapons and other weapons that function like them with respect to certain features. It also prohibits possession, transfer or sale of "assault-style" firearms or large-capacity feeding devices. □



A 9mm "ghost gun" pistol build kit with a commercial slide and barrel with a polymer frame is displayed in the Rose Garden of the White House, April 11, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press





## Attention: Detour

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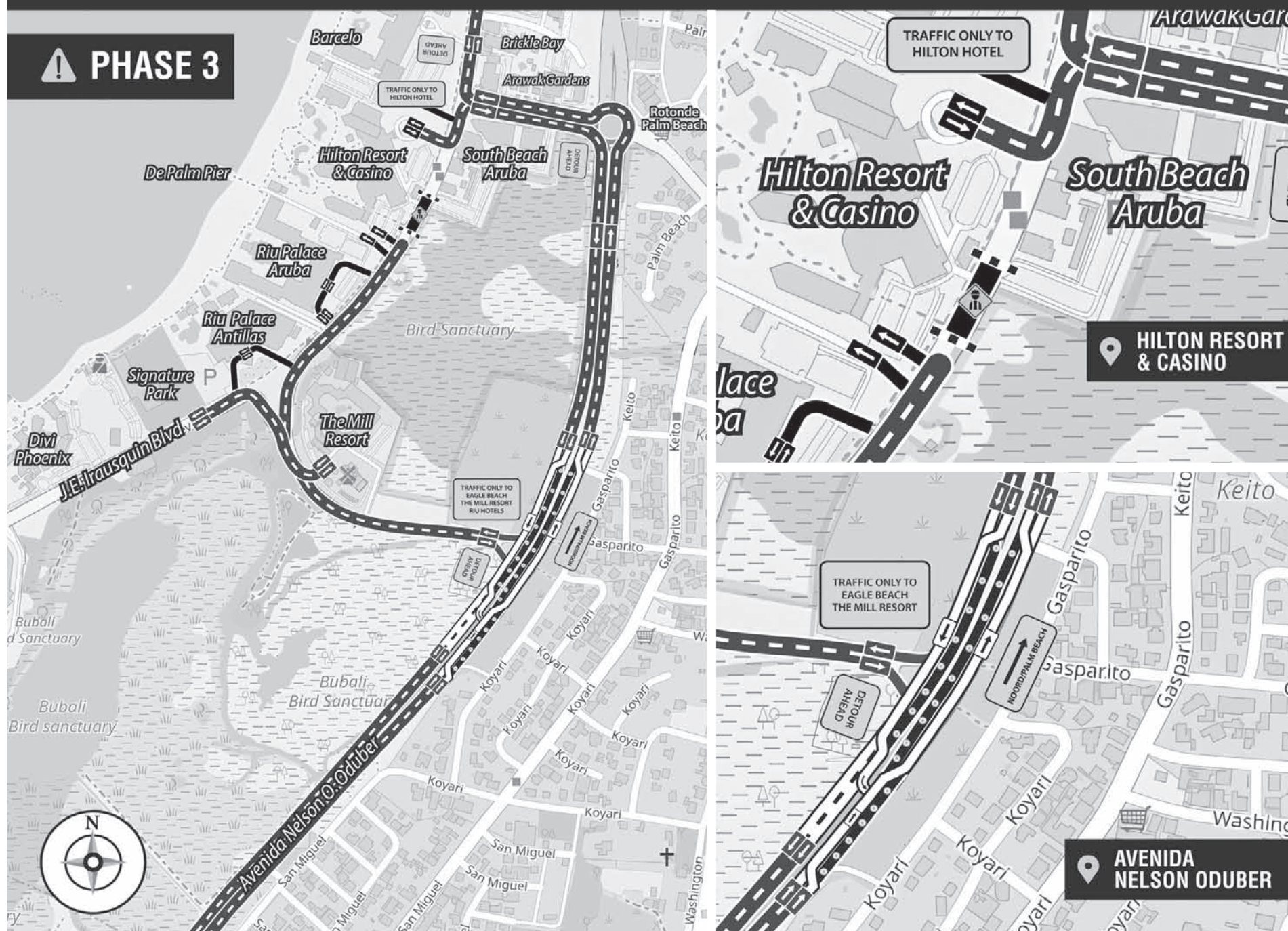


On Monday, June 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024, the road reconstruction project at High Rise Hotels: Phase 3 will commence. Phase 3 involves the area in front of Hilton Resort & Casino.

The project will be executed in four different phases, and Phase 3 will last for 7 weeks.

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DOW and the Police are asking the people of Aruba and all motorists, to be aware of this detour. We apologize for inconveniences that may arise and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



# Ethnic armed groups in Myanmar claim capture of regional military headquarters and gem mining center

By **GRANT PECK**  
Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Ethnic armed groups claimed on Thursday to have captured two strategically important towns in northeastern Myanmar: Lashio, which houses the major regional military headquarters, and Mogok, the center of the country's lucrative gem-mining industry. Their fall would be the biggest in a series of setbacks suffered by Myanmar's military government this year, and raises questions about whether the ruling military council could be forced to give up trying to hold contested territory in order to consolidate a defense of the central heartland.

The ruling military council denied its Lashio headquarters had been taken over, and two town residents contacted by phone said fighting there was continuing. Phone contact with Mogok has been cut off, but video posted on social media appeared to show residents cheering the arrival of ethnic guerrilla soldiers.

Lashio, the biggest city in the northern part of Shan state, and Mogok, the ruby-mining center in the upper Mandalay region, have been the targets of an offensive by the MNDAA, the Myanmar



Army officers stand guard as police officers patrol in Lashio, northern Shan State, Myanmar, on May 29, 2013.

Associated Press

National Democratic Alliance Army, and the TNLA, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, since late June. The MNDAA is a military force of the Kokang minority, who are ethnic Chinese, and the TNLA represents the Ta'ang, or Palaung, ethnic minority. The groups have been fighting for decades for greater autonomy from Myanmar's central government, and are loosely allied with the People's Defense Force, or PDF, the pro-democracy resistance that arose to fight military rule after the army

ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

The two armed groups are part of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, which last October launched a surprise offensive that succeeded in seizing large tracts of territory along the northern border with China. The current round of fighting marked an end to a January Chinese-brokered cease-fire that nominally stopped that fighting between the alliance and the army for almost six months. Beijing maintains close re-

lations with both groups, as well as with the military government, and above all seeks stability in Myanmar, which is a strategic ally.

The MNDAA said in a statement published Thursday on its Facebook page that the group had completely captured the military's Northeast Command headquarters in Lashio at 4 a.m. that morning, after 23 days of the fighting.

The MNDAA had captured a regional military headquarters in Laukkaing, a key city on the Chinese border, dur-

ing the earlier Three Brotherhood Alliance offensive, but the Lashio headquarters is more important.

The MNDAA statement said its claimed capture of Lashio, about 110 kilometers (70 miles) south of the Chinese border, was a "historic victory." However, Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, the spokesperson of the ruling military council, said in a message sent to the journalists on Thursday that the claims of the capture of the military command headquarters were untrue. He said the insurgents had infiltrated some neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city, and the army is fighting to clear them out.

"The loss of Lashio would be a major strategic blow for the regime," Morgan Michaels, a Singapore-based analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies who runs its Myanmar Conflict Map project, said in an email. "The city is home to the Northeast Command and is the junta's last major line of defense in northern Shan State. There could be about 5,000 regime defenders in the city, so depending on what happens to them — whether they withdraw, surrender, or get destroyed—that could have an impact on the army's overall force posture as well." □

## NORAD says it tracked Chinese and Russian long-range bombers off Alaska

**BEIJING (AP)** — Two Chinese and two Russian long-range bombers were tracked flying over international waters near Alaska and U.S. and Canadian fighter jets were sent up in

response, their joint aerospace command said. The Chinese and Russian military activity Wednesday was not seen as a threat, the North American Aerospace Defense Com-

mand, known as NORAD, said. China and Russia confirmed Thursday that they had conducted a joint air patrol over the Bering Sea, which divides Russia and Alaska.

"NORAD will continue to monitor competitor activity near North America and meet presence with presence," the command said in a news release.

While Russia's military has long been active in the north Pacific, China has emerged as a new actor in recent years as its growing navy and air force expands their presence farther from the country's shores.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the joint patrol also flew over the Chukchi Sea, which is on the north side

of the Bering Strait. Russian fighter jets and strategic bombers were joined by Chinese strategic bombers in the exercises, which lasted more than five hours, the ministry said.

The joint patrol tested and improved coordination between the two air forces, said Zhang Xiaogang, a spokesperson for China's Defense Ministry. He said it was the eighth joint strategic air patrol since 2019. He declined to comment when asked if it was the first such patrol over the Bering Sea.

NORAD said it had detected the two Chinese H-6 and two Russian Tupolev Tu-95 bombers in the North American U.S. Air Defense Identification Zone, an

area beyond U.S. and Canadian airspace in which those countries require aircraft to be identified for national security reasons.

A photo released by the Russian Defense Ministry showed a Russian Su-30 fighter jet escorting a Chinese bomber.

Another photo posted online by the military channel of China's state broadcaster CCTV showed Russian and Chinese long-winged bombers flying in parallel formation against mostly blue skies.

The Japanese military has grown increasingly concerned about joint China-Russia drills and the potential threat they represent to the security of Japan and the region. □



In this photo taken from video released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Thursday, July 25, 2024, A Tu-95 strategic bomber of the Russian air force is refueled in the air during a joint Russia-China air patrol.

Associated Press




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## Food Truck Festival San Nicolas 2024: Celebrating Local Agriculture and Food Security

This Saturday, July 27, the Food Truck Festival San Nicolas will take place. This year's theme is "Food Security," which aligns with the Ministry of Nature's vision for the management of the primary sector.

The Ministry of Nature is pleased to be part of this initiative to continue promoting the potential of Aruba's primary sector and improving food security.

The event promises to be a successful one, with Santa Rosa Aruba also participating this year to share information about local harvests and the nutritional value of local



products.

On the same day in the morning, Santa Rosa Aruba will have their Pop-Up Market at their headquarters in Piedra Plat from 8 AM to 11

AM, where there will be fresh meat, fruits, and vegetables. The Food Truck Festival San Nicolas will start at 6 PM and last until 11 PM. Thus, it will be a day to support local farmers and sustain our lo-



cal market in general.

The Ministry of Nature invites the entire community to visit these two events, which are free to enter, to enjoy a local

culinary experience and a lively atmosphere. "Aruba's future food security depends on our efforts today and the support we give our farmers," said Minister Ursell Arends. □

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean gen-



eralizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo'

stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations

became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

### Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □



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## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back**

**and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.**

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and

the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of

trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear

glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐





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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Aruba Beach Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
 Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
 Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador  
 Mr. Anthony Ferrari from Virginia Beach Virginia,



United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Aruba Beach Club bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

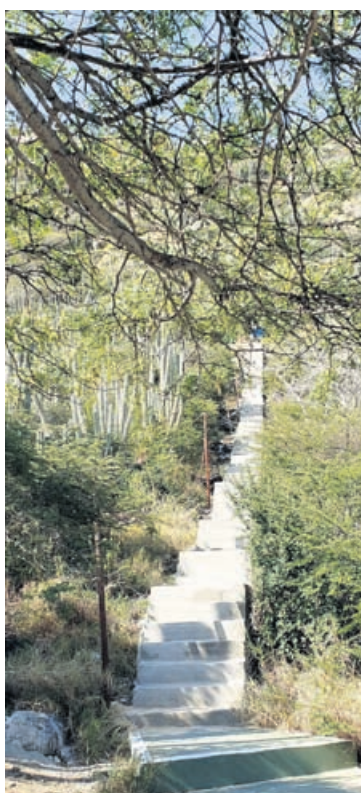
The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided

by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Family"
- "Friends"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters

above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up



the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □





# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



**The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.**

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

## Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was of-

ficially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

## The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also

known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

## Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found



ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

## Park Management

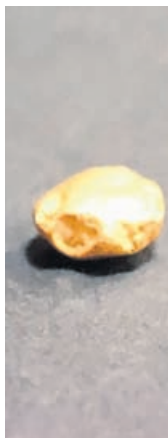
For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding

area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas.□





## In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



**(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”**

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Spotted

1 Social horse

group 44 School

6 Shopping event

centers 45 Wise

11 Ready for guys

battle 46 Periphery

12 Hilo hello

13 Planet

circlers

14 Road feature

reversal

15 Moody come-ons

music 3 Some-

16 Furious thing easy

18 Maze 10 Yellow-

runner gray

19 Tell count

tales 17 Pen

20 Cow Bygone point

chow auto 22 Slangy

21 Pallid 6 O'Hara of

23 Monster "The Quiet

25 Brief time Man"

27 Goose 7 Utah ski

egg resort

28 Spanish 26 Spots for

snacks slots

30 Interlace 42 Heel

33 Work

wk.'s end

34 Bro's

sibling

36 Scottish

river

37 Playwright

Hellman

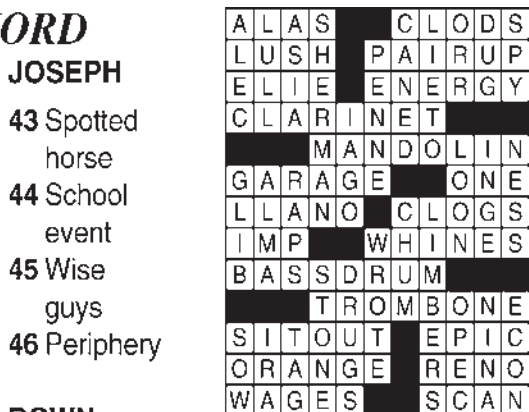
39 Pop

40 Bird-

related

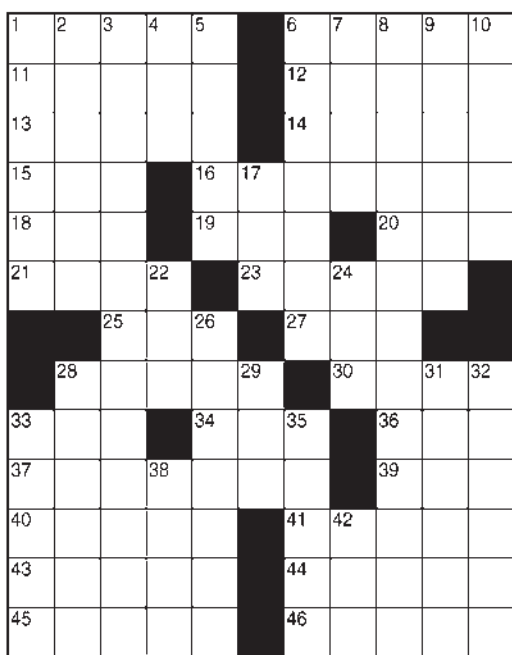
41 Cake

topper



Yesterday's answer

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 Phone     | 8 Some-      | 28 Quiz show |
| feature     | thing        | fodder       |
| 2 Kitchen   | difficult    | 29 "Chande-  |
| come-ons    | 9 Menace     | lier" singer |
| 3 Some-     | 10 Yellow-   | 31 Medium    |
| thing easy  | gray         | meeting      |
| 4 Finger    | 17 Pen       | 32 Yard sur- |
| count       | point        | rounders     |
| 5 Bygone    | 22 Slangy    | 33 Wing      |
| auto        | agree-       | parts        |
| 6 O'Hara of | ment         | 35 Slyly     |
| "The Quiet  | 24 Goal      | sarcastic    |
| Man"        | 26 Spots for | 38 Overdue   |
| 7 Utah ski  | slots        |              |



5-3

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

BFGN FR NMT NVFXUST HE

NMT OFVSI HG AJXGTI UZ

QTFQST OJENHED NF UT

HBQFVNJEN. — N.G. TSHFN

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU MUST ALWAYS BE A-WAGGLE WITH LOVE. — D.H. LAWRENCE

## Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7



# Video game performers will go on strike over artificial intelligence concerns



SAG-AFTRA captains Iris Liu, left, and Miki Yamashita, center, and SAG-AFTRA chief negotiator Duncan Crabtree-Ireland lead a cheer for striking actors outside Paramount Pictures studio, Nov. 3, 2023, in Los Angeles.

**By SARAH PARVINI**  
**AP Technology Writer**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Hollywood's video game performers voted to go on strike Thursday, throwing part of the entertainment industry into another work stoppage after talks for a new contract with major game studios broke down over artificial intelligence protections. The strike the second for video game voice actors and motion capture performers under the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists will begin at 12:01 a.m. Friday. The move comes after nearly two years of negotiations with gaming giants, including divisions of Activision, Warner

Bros. and Walt Disney Co., over a new interactive media agreement. SAG-AFTRA negotiators say gains have been made over wages and job safety in the video game contract, but that the studios will not make a deal over the regulation of generative AI. Without guardrails, game companies could train AI to replicate an actor's voice, or create a digital replica of their likeness without consent or fair compensation, the union said. Fran Drescher, the union's president, said in a prepared statement that members would not approve a contract that would allow companies to "abuse AI." "Enough is enough. When

these companies get serious about offering an agreement our members can live and work with, we will be here, ready to negotiate," Drescher said. A representative for the studios did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. The global video game industry generates well over \$100 billion dollars in profit annually, according to game market forecaster Newzoo. The people who design and bring those games to life are

the driving force behind that success, SAG-AFTRA said. "Eighteen months of negotiations have shown us that our employers are not interested in fair, reasonable AI protections, but rather flagrant exploitation," said Interactive Media Agreement Negotiating Committee Chair Sarah Elmaleh. Last month, union negotiators told The Associated Press that the game studios refused to "provide an equal level of protection from the dangers of AI for all our members" — specifically, movement performers. □

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Red Cross	582 2219

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# Wind farms' benefits to communities can be slow or complex, leading to opposition and misinformation

By **MARY KATHERINE WILDE-MAN and MELINA WALLING**  
**Associated Press**

After NextEra proposed a wind farm in Greeley County, Nebraska two years ago, Robert Bernt, a dairy farm owner in the area, helped to mobilize community members against the idea.

His group held town hall meetings and ran ads on the radio, arguing the wind farm would "fragment" the community, by lowering property values and leaving "decaying blades in our landfills." Bernt estimated Greeley is the eighth county where he has fought a wind project. "In every case, people were upset because they felt they weren't told the truth," Bernt said.

To Bernt, the truth is that wind developers under-deliver on their economic promises to communities and harm the environment. He said people's taxes don't go down, and wind farms take away from an area's natural beauty, noting rural Nebraska could use a boost in tourism income.

Bernt's words are an echo of those commonly cited by wind power's opponents, with arguments often hinging on the idea that wind developers under-deliver on their promises. Unpicking facts from fiction and the gray area of people's personal feelings in between is difficult. And even some local leaders who can see money flowing into government coffers say they had trouble understanding a complex taxing system at first.

While wind power can contribute millions per year to rural communities, an independent Associated Press analysis found, these economic arguments have at times been drowned out by health and safety concerns, as well as accusations that wind is taking away from a local economy in other ways. Local laws effectively blocking wind or solar projects are increasingly common, said Matthew Eisen, of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University.

"When you have extremely

restrictive local ordinances it can stop major wind and solar projects from moving forward," Eisen said.

Wind developers told the Lawrence Berkeley Nation-

were rare until the phrase "wind turbine syndrome" was coined in a self-published book.

A dramatic spike in complaints then followed.

ways buy in. That's something Kathy Croker saw during her 25 years as an appraiser and 17 as an assessor before joining the board of supervisors in Buena Vista

desire more strict zoning regulations in Ford County. One of those people, Ted Hartke, says that the noise from a nearby wind farm led his family to leave their home about 10 years ago. He said they couldn't sleep and that they could "sense it in the house" when the turbines were running.

Hartke, an engineer and surveyor, says he initially supported wind power, but has since become an ardent opponent in public meetings and on social media. He feels his family experienced real harm, saying "there's a lot of victims just like us." But he also mentioned that being "so pissed off" has led him to find out more and more about wind online.

"It seems like my Facebook feed just feeds me this stuff," he said.

Facebook groups that often feature repeating group members and memes rife with misinformation have been documented as a highly effective tool at stalling local interest in wind projects, at times spreading fear-mongering false claims related to health or property values.

The Greeley county board of commissioners voted to allow a special use permit for NextEra despite the vocal opposition. Work is scheduled to begin on the Greeley County project in 2025, a NextEra spokeswoman said in a statement. She noted the project is a roughly \$200 million capital investment for the company, and will pay out \$27 million in lease payments to landowners over the farm's expected 30-year life in addition to the taxes NextEra will pay.

The agreement reached between NextEra and the county government requires the company to set aside millions for an eventual decommissioning and to support local roads. Bernt said it is one of the more generous agreements he has seen, but "only because there was enough attention brought to the issues" by concerned community members. □



Wind turbines operate, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, in Paxton, Ill.

Associated Press

al Laboratory in a January report at least a quarter of applications to build wind projects were canceled in the last five years, with local rules and community opposition cited as some of the leading reasons.

John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union and an advocate of wind power, said its opponents are increasingly organized and often cite the same arguments in each community.

Many anti-wind coalitions cite declines in local property values, for instance. A December review by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found reduced property value for homes within one mile of turbines, but those values rebounded after construction finished. Other debunked claims include: Studies have found no significant impact of turbines on bird life.

And there is no established link between low-frequency noise from wind turbines and human health, according to a report authored by Eisen. They point to, among other references, one study of Australian wind farms in which complaints related to noise and human health

"Every fear, every misinformation that you can imagine gets put on the barn wall," Hansen said. "We have rural communities who are going out of their way to pursue agendas that are counterproductive to their own interests."

Some claims may be harder for wind proponents to address.

Wind developers stress accidents where turbines fall down or catch fire are rare, but the incidents tend to be widely publicized when they do happen, and often appear on anti-wind social media channels. Public information showing industry-wide tracking of such accidents does not exist, though experts updating the National Wind Turbine Database may see catastrophic turbine failures, and say it is very uncommon.

And while about 90% of wind turbines can be recycled, for the time being that may not include the blades themselves. Wind developers are working on solutions to keep turbines out of landfills.

Even presented with facts about wind power and its subsequent tax benefits, however, people don't al-

County, Iowa, one of the first counties in the nation to have big wind projects. She says she always thought wind turbines were "kinda cool," and says she's seen firsthand the tax implications for the county, including millions of dollars to the school district.

But she said from her position in local government that people didn't necessarily trust her when she told them wind power might actually help with taxes.

"In my experience, the larger population does not think about the benefits of a larger tax base," she said. "There is a general mistrust." Other people say their minds were changed by talking to particular community members.

Like Cindy Ihrke, the vice chair of the board of Ford County, Illinois, who said she wasn't against wind initially. She acknowledged some of the benefits of existing wind farms, but doesn't think what they've done for the county is good enough to want more of it.

Then Ihrke says that she heard about people in the county "having problems or having to leave their homes," which led her to



# After a grueling Tour de France, top riders are racing to recover for Paris Olympics time trial

By DAVE SKRETTA  
AP Sports Writer

The conclusion to the Tour de France last Sunday in Nice, where Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar became a three-time champion by dominating rival Jonas Vingegaard and the rest of the field, has sent some of the world's best cyclists into the road race at the Paris Olympics in the best possible shape.

For others, the race is on to recover from three grueling weeks in time for Saturday's time trial.

The cycling schedule was altered for this Summer Games, and the traditional road race that starts the program was pushed back to give riders competing in it a longer break. But to make the revised schedule work, the time trial was pushed ahead to the day after the opening ceremony, which means many riders from the Tour will still have wobbly legs.

The biggest among them is Remco Evenepoel, the 24-year-old from Belgium who won the first of the Tour's two time trials and went on to finish third in the overall. But after Pogacar withdrew from the Olympics, citing fatigue, the race against the clock is wide open, especially given how little time riders have to recover from their trek through the French countryside.



**Belgium's Remco Evenepoel, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, center, follows teammate Spain's Mikel Landa during the twentieth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 132.8 kilometers (82.5 miles) with start in Nice and finish in La Couillole pass, France, Saturday, July 20, 2024.**

Associated Press

"The big three are Filippo Ganna, Remco and Josh Tarling," said Brandon McNulty, the American time trial champion, who did not compete in the Tour and hopes his fresh legs can carry him to his nation's first medal in the men's time trial since 2008.

After a pause, McNulty kept on going, throwing out Stefan Kueng of Switzerland as another podium contender. Belgium's Wout van Aert also could be in the mix, provided he has recovered

from seven top-10 finishes during the Tour.

The race begins at Invalides and ends at the gilded bridge of Pont Alexandre III. All the riders will pass by Notre Dame, the Place de la Bastille and the former royal residence at Chateau de Vincennes, along with several more of Paris' iconic sites. One they will avoid: the Champs-Élysée, the historic thoroughfare where the Tour typically finishes but has been taken over during the Olympics and forced the

second of the three Grand Tours to finish in Nice. "It's pretty flat, a few corners, but it's pretty simple overall," McNulty said. "Some bumpy roads and stuff, but fast." That could play into the hands of American time trial world champion Chloe Dygert in the women's race. The 27-year-old from Brownsburg, Indiana, has overcome a lot to become the favorite to win gold in Paris. Dygert was in a career-threatening crash at the world championships in 2020

that derailed her plans to race for gold the following year at the Tokyo Games, then dealt with a series of injuries and illnesses along with some off-the-bike hurdles in her personal life. "Looking back at Rio in 2016, I took everything for granted," said Dygert, who helped the U.S. win silver in the team pursuit in the velodrome that year. "I remember Rio better than Tokyo because I was happier and healthier. I respected and felt so much more grateful for being able to go to Tokyo after my accident. I realized and understood better that being selected for the Olympics is such an accomplishment and that it's such a massive dream for everyone."

The bigger dream is to win gold, though. Dygert also has a bronze medal from the team pursuit at the Tokyo Games.

Yet the path to the top step of the podium remains a daunting one in Paris.

Dygert's biggest challenge could come from Ellen van Dijk of the Netherlands, who gave birth to her first child in October and returned to racing in March, only to break her ankle while training in June. The three-time world time trial champion decided a few weeks ago that she was in good enough shape to race in Paris. □

## U.S. viewers' Olympic interest is down, poll finds, except for Simone Biles

**PARIS (AP)** — On the heels of low ratings for the coronavirus pandemic-marred Tokyo and Beijing Olympics, Paris may not do much better among U.S. viewers, a poll from Gallup released Thursday found.

Simone Biles and women's gymnastics are poised to be a bright spot, with those surveyed selecting it as their most anticipated sport.

But according to the poll, 30% of respondents said they will not watch any of the Games, 34% said they will not watch much and 35% said they would watch at least a fair amount. That last figure is down from the 48% measured before the

2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Gallup did not measure viewing intentions for the Tokyo Olympics, which were delayed a year.

NBC's prime-time coverage of the Tokyo Olympics mostly drew about half the audience of its Summer Games predecessor. The Beijing Olympics had the lowest-ever U.S. audience for a Winter Games. Both Games were held under severe restrictions, limiting spectators and dampening the typical fanfare. NBC, which holds the U.S. broadcasting rights through 2032, is trying to turn around that trend by enlisting a slew of entertainers and non-Olymp-

pian athletes in its coverage. The last three Olympics, including the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, were held in time zones that limited how much live action NBC could air in prime time. The network did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment on the poll. Biles and the rest of the U.S. gymnastics squad could bring in high ratings, though, with Gallup finding in general that women's sports were as anticipated as men's. Forty-two percent chose women's gymnastics as their most anticipated sport, while around two-thirds of re-

spondents ranked it in their top three. That competition

begins with qualifying on Sunday. □



**Simone Biles of the United States practices the uneven bars during a gymnastics training session at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Thursday, July 25, 2024, in Paris, France.**

Associated Press





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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

## Scherzer takes over 10th on career Ks list and Semien homers as Rangers beat White Sox 2-1

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

**AP Baseball Writer**

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Max Scherzer struck out a season-high nine to take over 10th place on the career list, Marcus Semien homered and the Texas Rangers beat the Chicago White Sox 2-1 on Thursday.

Scherzer pushed his career total to 3,400 after first passing former teammate and fellow three-time Cy Young winner Justin Verlander with his third strikeout of the game, after Eloy Jiménez took a 93.3 mph fastball for a called third strike in the second inning. Scherzer leads among active pitchers.

Two days before his 40th birthday, Scherzer threw 62 of 85 pitches for strikes in his 464th game over 17 big league seasons. He allowed one run and walked one while pitching three-hit ball over six innings.

The reigning World Series champion Rangers (51-52)

won their fifth game in a row to match their season-best streak and completed their first four-game sweep at home since 2017, three years before they moved into Globe Life Field. They

have won 12 of 16, moving within a game of .500 for the first time since June 2. Chicago (27-78) has lost 11 games in a row and 17 of 20. The White Sox are 51 games under .500 for the first time

they were 50-101 in 1948 and are on pace for 120 losses, which would match the expansion 1962 New York Mets for the most since the 19th century.

David Robertson, the third

Texas reliever, worked two innings for second save in seven chances.

Semien's 15th homer led off the third against rookie right-hander Jonathan Cannon (1-5) to tie the game at 1-1. The Rangers went ahead an inning later when Nathaniel Lowe had a leadoff double and scored when Leody Taveras grounded into a force-out. Cannon scattered eight hits over six innings in his 10th big league start.

Chicago led 1-0 after Brooks Baldwin drew a leadoff walk in the third and scored on a double by No. 9 batter Kory Lee.

It was the major league-high 30th time the White Sox scored first and lost. They have dropped 39 games in which they led at some point. Texas designated hitter Robbie Grossman, who had a pinch-hit homer Wednesday night, marked his 10th year of major league service with two hits. □



**Texas Rangers starting pitcher Max Scherzer (31) delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox Thursday, July 25, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.**

**Associated Press**